

THE FREE PRESS.

HARRY FREEZE, Publisher.
HAYS CITY, KANS.

KANSAS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Alma is discussing the desirability of an electric light plant.

Lindenberg is agitating sending a prospect hole down into the earth.

County treasurers in Kansas took up their responsibilities on October 9.

The Wichita Carnival association received \$4,491.95 from its midway booth leases.

John A. Bright retires from the office of grand master of the Kansas Odd Fellows this year.

Farms in Republic county, near Scandia, are changing hands lively at \$30 to \$35 an acre.

The corner stone for Carl Browne's flying machine factory in Fort Scott, is to be laid October 14.

The ladies of the Wichita Episcopal church realized \$1,000 from the sale of confetti at the carnival.

Topeka's paved streets will measure 20 miles when work now going on is completed; sometime this fall.

The people of Whiting feel the need of a place to hold public meetings and talk about having a city hall.

All Hallows academy in Wichita is to have an expensive addition for which the contract will be let October 22.

The grand lodge of the Rebekah state assembly held a public reception in the Topeka auditorium on Oct. 10.

Twelve pickpockets were arrested at Cottonwood Falls. Their work was done during the Old Soldiers' reunion.

The Salina Roll Corrugating and Machine company, a new combination, which has purchased the machinery plant at Enterprise to move it to Salina, has been chartered.

J. N. Frantz, a merchant of Canton, was arrested on suspicion of complicity in a counterfeiting scheme. He was taken to Wichita and readily proved his innocence before a United States commissioner.

The Anti-Horse Thief association at their meeting in Wichita elected the following named officers: President, G. D. Horn, Welch, I. T., vice president, D. McCully, Miami county, Kansas; treasurer, John Wall, Parsons.

Alva Talmadge, a soldier in the Philippines, wrote home to his Odd Fellows lodge in Herrington for a statement of his account with the lodge. The members made up the amount of his dues and a clean receipt was sent to the soldier.

On September 1 the deposits in the state and private banks of Kansas were \$31,645,670; on September 5 the deposits in the national banks of the state were \$29,195,981; total, \$60,841,651; an average of about \$13.50 per capita of the entire population of the state.

Evelyn B. Baldwin, who is to be in charge of the Ziegler expedition to the north pole, is a Kansas man. He taught school at Oswego in the early 90's, later went into the government survey service, and then joined the Peary relief expedition. He has written a book on polar expeditions.

A party from Wichita attended the funeral of Edward Goldberg at Seneca, Mo. They died there from mushroom poisoning. Mr. and Mrs. Goldberg were long time citizens of Wichita, leaving there when he was made an Indian agent. Their son, Ned Goldberg, aged 16, was dangerously sick from the same cause at the time of the funeral.

The Scottish Rite Masons held their semi-annual reunion in Topeka, closing with a banquet on the night of October 10.

A Labette county farmer bought 8 sucking pigs for \$12 and in about 8 months sold them for \$70. He estimates that their entire cost to him was less than \$25.

There are entries for the big coursing meet at Mankato from England, Ireland, Scotland and Australia. The prizes aggregate \$1,000. The meet opens October 16.

State Architect Stanton is now at work on the plans of the Kansas building at Buffalo. It will be quite different from buildings erected in past years by the state at expositions.

The Anti-Horse Thief association met in Wichita October 10. The organization is 37 years old. Its officers for the past term are: J. B. Culbertson of Terling, president; C. G. Horn, of Eagle, I. T., vice president; J. W. Wall, of Parsons, secretary, who were selected at the meeting in Vinita, I. T., last year.

In the past four years the Santa Fe has replaced nearly 2,500 bridges on its lines, of an aggregate length of almost 40 miles.

Brakeman Walker, who runs on the Hutchinson and Southern branch of the Santa Fe, was knocked off the top of a freight car near Pretty Prairie, but escaped with a few bruises.

Miners' homes at No. 8 mining camp of the Western Coal and Mining Company near Yale, all have electric lights and water supplied in each house. The houses are roomy and well furnished.

At a horse race in Kensington, the riders of both horses were painfully injured. One horse fell and the other fell over him.

The Knights and Ladies of Security, a Kansas born institution, with headquarters in its own building in Topeka, instituted its lodge, number 500, in Denver, a few days since.

Miss Frances Katner, a teacher of Doniphan and Atchison counties, has been appointed principal of an Indian school at Round Valley, Cal., with four teachers under her direction.

Burglars have done some professional work at Harper.

Ellis shipped about 63,000 bushels of wheat in September.

A concert at Leavenworth for the benefit of Galveston realized \$400.

Harper is to have a 10,000 bushel elevator, and wants another lumber yard too.

Sheep feeding is becoming one of the leading farm industries of Atchison county.

"Feeders" are being placed among Kansas farmers, a carload or two to each buyer.

The next meeting of the Commercial clubs of Kansas will be held in Topeka in January.

Duck hunting in the Cheyenne bottoms is said to be the best in Kansas this year.

Everett E. Salser, professor of book-keeping and penmanship at the State Normal, is dead.

Dr. Alexander Lewis, aged 67, who was a brevet brigadier general in the civil war, is dead.

Frank Gilstrap, of Linn county, was killed by a Memphis passenger train. He was very deaf.

The Rock Island has asked for bids on twenty new compound locomotives for the freight service.

Davenport, St. Louis and Fort Scott men propose to rehabilitate the Fort Scott street car service.

The Kansas penitentiary, for the month of September, had a balance over expenses of \$1,491.

E. T. Oliverson, of Abbeville, Reno county, tried to jump on a moving train and was killed instantly.

Clay Center has not quit; another injunction is asked for to operate against Parsons in the asylum matter.

Warranty deeds have averaged 23 daily, coming to the office of the register of deeds of Sedgwick county.

The five barrels of apples sent by the Kansas Horticultural society to Paris, was awarded the first premium.

Marion county's poor farm considerably more than pays its own expenses, including the support of inmates.

Theo. Richardson, aged 86, of Wellington, is dead. He located there in 1879, and had been a merchant for over forty years.

The official ballot in Kansas will contain five state tickets—Republican, Democratic, People's Party, Prohibition and Socialist.

Erastus A. and Rhoda A. Pollard, of Harvey county, have celebrated their sixtieth wedding day. They were married in Vermont, October 11, 1840.

Blue Mound lost four frame buildings on its main street by fire and the plate glass windows in the opera house block across the street were broken by the heat.

State Labor Commissioner Johnson has been instrumental in settling the miners' strike in Leavenworth. The miners are given an advance in pay. Other matters are to be arbitrated.

Robert Higginbotham, of Montgomery county, died leaving no heirs. He left \$300 more than enough to balance expenses and liabilities and that is now in the state treasury according to law.

The plant for making twine at the Kansas penitentiary, which has been closed since July, resumes operations this week. It is the intention to manufacture several hundred thousand pounds.

Among the first of the postoffices established in what is now Kansas, was Kankakee, on the old overland route. It was established in the 40's, but is now discontinued on account of free rail delivery.

Carl B. Gray, formerly of the Frisco office in Wichita, has been appointed superintendent of transportation of the Frisco system.

One of the oldest Odd Fellows who attended the grand lodge in Topeka was Capt. Wm. Mathewson, who came to what is now Kansas in 1849. He had a trading post at Great Bend for 35 years.

The Salina city council did not accept the offer of the Barnard Manufacturing company to remove there from Enterprise.

A farmer in Logan county cut his wheat early in July and a volunteer crop came up and it headed out; racing with the frost season to produce another crop of about 10 bushels to the acre.

A. T. Olson, of Marguerite, was to have been married, but is in jail accused of forging notes to raise money for his honeymoon.

A letter has been received from Dr. Corbett, of Che Foo, China, at the head of the mission supported by the First Presbyterian church of Wichita.

C. H. Sheffield, of the Santa Fe shops of Topeka, has the pleasant habit of sending large quantities of flowers to the hospitals of that road. The last gift was to the hospital at La Junta. He cultivates the flowers himself.

Miss Myrtle Cumback, of Dodge City, and J. L. Miles, of Kansas City, are married. He is a nephew of General Miles.

The looks of the Decatur county jail have been picked four times and the officers are not able to find out how it is done.

The Atchison planing mill is being equipped with electric lights because a night force is required to catch up with the orders.

The Fortieth United States infantry regiment is made up mostly of Kansas boys. The regiment is garrisoning the six principal cities of the north coast of Mindanao.

Charles F. Priestly, formerly ticket agent at the Wichita union depot, has been appointed relief agent of the Santa Fe middle division. G. B. Dolan succeeds Priestly at the Wichita office.

ACCEPT OR ARBITRATE.

Convention Would Accept With Conditions--Operators' Offer.

NO WORK UNTIL SETTLED.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 16.—The anthracite coal miners now on strike decided to accept the 10 per cent net increase in wages offered by the mine owners, providing they will continue the payment of the advance until next April, and will abolish the sliding scale. If the operators consider the proposition unacceptable, the miners are willing to arbitrate the questions at issue. They also decided to continue the strike until the operators agree to the convention's proposition.

The action taken was by the adoption of resolutions reported by a committee, which contain the following:

"That this convention accept an advance of 10 per cent, providing the operators will continue its payment until April 1, 1901, and will abolish the sliding scale in the Lehigh and Schuylkill regions; the scale of wages in the two last named districts to remain stationary at 10 per cent above the present price basis; and that the companies will agree to adjust other grievances complained of with committees of their own employees.

"Should this proposition be unacceptable to the operators we recommend that the convention propose that all questions at issue be submitted to a fair and impartial board of arbitration.

"We would further recommend that under no circumstances whatever should there be a resumption of work at any of the collieries until the operators signify their acceptance of this proposition and you are notified officially that the strike is ended and all return to work in a body on the same day."

A Russian Threat.

London, Oct. 13.—A Moscow correspondent attaches significance to a speech made by the Russian general to some troops who had been ordered to China, but were recalled on the very eve of sailing. He says that the general in addressing the men, made this explanation: "The czar decided it was necessary to bring you back to Wilna so that you might be ready here to join us against a foe we shall be ordered to meet." The correspondent adds that the foe hinted at can only be Germany.

Plundering and Raiding.

Manila, Oct. 15.—The west coast of the island of Leyte is in a state of turmoil, the rebel Ladrone are actively plundering, raiding and attacking and then returning to the garrison towns while the Americans pursue in the mountains.

General Mojica's officers are surrendering and his soldiers attempting to escape to Samar, in boats, are being captured, and his organization broken up.

Concession to Americans Annulled.

Caracas, Venezuela, Oct. 15.—The government has annulled the concession of the Orinoco Company, alleging non-execution of contract. The company, which has headquarters at Faribault, Minn., and which is capitalized at \$30,000,000, was granted in 1883 a concession of 10,000,000 acres of land situated in the Orinoco district.

A Thousand Tons of Hay Lost.

La Crosse, Wis., Oct. 15.—Farmers have suffered the greatest damage from the high water in this vicinity, having lost over 1,000 tons of hay valued at nearly \$9,000.

A Soldier's Home Fire.

Boise, Idaho, Oct. 12.—The Idaho Soldiers' Home is partially destroyed by fire, caused by a defective fuse. The home is a mile and a half from the city limits and is a frame building. There were 800 inmates, one of whom, Thomas Hayes, lost his life by suffocation.

The lower floor of the west wing was not burned and the second floor only partially. The insurance is about \$20,000, about one-half the loss.

Cuban News.

Havana, Oct. 15.—General Wood will leave the United States during the present week, returning to Havana about October 25. Cattle for breeding purposes from Central America and Jamaica will be imported into the eastern districts of Puerto Principe province and the western part of the province of Santiago. The importation will be at the expense of the government. The press of the island unanimously applauds the efforts of the secretary of agriculture, to induce immigration. The planters Association is particularly hearty in its approval.

New Tents for Kansas.

Topeka, Oct. 16.—The war department as allowed Kansas' claim of \$26,993.45 for quartermaster's supplies for the Kansas guard.

Last year the department allowed \$23,064.46 for ordinance. It is in the form of property to take the place of property turned over to the government by the state when the Spanish-American war broke out. Among the supplies awarded the state are 312 new tents for state property to be used by the G. A. R. and 300 new tents for the guard.

To Sit on The Hague Tribunal.

Washington, Oct. 15.—It is understood the president has selected Judge George D. Gray of Delaware to represent the United States with ex-President Benjamin Harrison on The Hague permanent arbitration tribunal. Judge Gray is a former senator from Delaware and a Democrat. He was a member of the Paris peace commission and is now a United States judge for the Third judicial circuit. His selection will not involve his position as circuit judge.

Ten Thousand Found Graves There.

London, Oct. 15.—With the Chinese mudslide showing signs of clearing up, there is some opportunity of paying attention to the quiet ending of the war in South Africa. Out of thirty thousand wounded, twenty-nine thousand have returned to duty. Such quick recovery of such a large percentage of the wounded rather breaks down Baron Bloch's theory that a modern war is impossible owing to its slaughter, though it is true 10,000 British soldiers were killed in South Africa.

CRIMINAL USE OF THE WIRE.

Two Operators Forged Telegraphic Orders for Money.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 15.—A shrewd attempt to rob the City National bank of Kansas City and the Commercial bank of Lawson, Mo., out of \$5,500, was tipped in the bud and as a result Harry Turner and Robert O'Connor, telegraph operators, both of Kansas City, are under arrest.

Turner and O'Connor went to Lawson and pretended to be looking for land. It appears a telegram was sent to the Kansas City bank signed "Commercial Bank," asking that \$5,500 in currency be sent by express to Lawson. The Kansas City bank wired that it had sent the money, but the telegram never reached the Lawson bank. Instead O'Connor presented a telegram, apparently from the City National bank ordering the Commercial bank to pay him the amount stated. The bank officials, becoming suspicious, telephoned Kansas City and O'Connor was placed under arrest in the bank while writing a draft. Later Turner was taken in. Investigation developed that the two men had telegraph instruments located outside of Lawson, and that they had sent the telegrams themselves.

Comparative Wage Showing.

Washington, Oct. 16.—Hon. Carroll D. Wright, commissioner of labor, has issued a bulletin giving a summary of data in a previous publication which shows as follows the average wages, 1891 being taken as a basis, and representing 100.

Year.	Relative Wages.
1891.....	\$100 00
1893.....	100 30
1895.....	99 32
1897.....	98 08
1899.....	97 88
1900.....	97 93
1897.....	98 06
1898.....	98 78
1899.....	101 54
1900.....	103 43

Varying Peking Opinions.

Pekin, Oct. 16.—It is now believed here that the settlement of the situation will be made by an international commission, either at The Hague or Washington, at which China will not be represented. If the opinion of high officials here can be taken as a guide Russia, Germany, France and possibly Italy are in favor of a division of China with a merely nominal Chinese empire, while England, America and Japan will demand the open door policy, a heavy indemnity, and for a long period the policing of the country by an international force.

Gathering of Quakers.

Lawrence, Kas., Oct. 16.—The twenty-ninth annual session of the Friends' church of Kansas and parts of Missouri, Indian Territory and Oklahoma, convened here. Many noted Friends are present, among whom are: Mr. and Mrs. William Hobson, of London, England, who are here on missionary work; Drusilla Wilson, who did a great deal for the passage of the prohibition amendment in Kansas; Sarah J. King, a missionary in the City of Mexico; Gilman Hobson, of California, and S. A. Wood, of Iowa. President Stanley, of Friend's university, Wichita, Kansas, presided.

Refused to Take Places of Strikers.

New London, Conn., Oct. 15.—One hundred section hands were brought here by the Central Vermont Railway company. Upon learning they were expected to take the place of strikers the men refused to work. Meanwhile the police, evidently anticipating trouble, have concentrated a large force near an Italian saloon, where the Italians brought from New York are drinking heavily.

An Industrial Department.

Topeka, Oct. 13.—The board of char-actaries has awarded the contract for putting in the electric light plant in the new industrial building at the state reform school.

A \$20,000 building for a blacksmith, carpenter, harness and shoe shop is being completed and it will be equipped with all modern appliances.

Al Greene's New Job.

Washington, Oct. 15.—Albert R. Greene, of the general land office, has been selected as chief of the new division of forestry, of the interior department, authorized by the last congress.

Mr. Greene was born in Illinois 60 years ago and came to Kansas in 1857. He early became identified with various newspapers of the state. At Minneapolis, Kansas, he edited the Messenger for a number of years, moving from there to Cherryvale, where he took charge of the Star. For twenty-five years Mr. Greene has made his home at Leocompton, Douglas county. Much of his life has been as an office holder.

St. Joseph Has Gas Prospects.

St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 16.—Gas of sufficient flow that will probably justify piping this city for use, was found near the One Hundred and Two river, four miles east of this city. For some time it has been supposed that coal in paying quantities was to be found in the vicinity and several shafts have been sunk, but the long sought for vein being an extension of the Leavenworth supply was not discovered. At a depth of 1,116 feet, gas was struck in great volume.

Ten Thousand Found Graves There.

London, Oct. 15.—With the Chinese mudslide showing signs of clearing up, there is some opportunity of paying attention to the quiet ending of the war in South Africa. Out of thirty thousand wounded, twenty-nine thousand have returned to duty. Such quick recovery of such a large percentage of the wounded rather breaks down Baron Bloch's theory that a modern war is impossible owing to its slaughter, though it is true 10,000 British soldiers were killed in South Africa.

THE MINERS' CONVENTION.

Organization Perfected, Followed by Address by Mitchell.

GOMPERS SENDS ASSURANCE.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 15.—The miners' convention, with 857 delegates in attendance, met to consider the 10 per cent advance in wages offered by the operators, spent most of the first day's session in organization.

A short secret session was held after organization was completed but it is learned that nothing of a definite nature was even suggested, which might lead to a solution of the matter in hand.

From the trend of the remarks of the delegates it was gathered that the 10 per cent proposition as it now stands has very little chance of being accepted. The delegates seemed, it was learned, almost unanimous that the operators should first make concessions in the other grievances before the increase is accepted by the mine workers. Great stress was laid on the necessity of abolishing the sliding scale and substituting therefor a tonnage basis on which to fix the rate of wages. The proposition of having the operators guarantee a fixed time for paying the advance was also thoroughly discussed, while not a few delegates said they would be satisfied with nothing but a liberal increase in wages. The mode of procedure was much discussed. At the close of the session the opinion prevailed that no definite conclusion would be reached. Some of the delegates think that the whole subject should be left in the hands of the national officers, as hinted at by President Mitchell in his brief remarks just before the convention went into secret session. Mr. Mitchell is very popular among the miners, as was shown by the enthusiasm displayed as he delivered his opening address.

A telegram from Samuel Gompers was read which assured the sincere sympathy and co-operation of every union member and officer of the American Federation of Labor.

President Mitchell concluded a third address with: "If you legislate wisely you will have a bright future before you; on the other hand, a mistake made now means a continuation of the conditions which have prevailed here for many years. I hope that you men will do your duty. No man wants to be carried away with enthusiasm. You do not want to vote or speak on any question because it is popular to so do. You should do what you believe to be right."

Tell It all to Comrades.

Leavenworth, Kans., Oct. 16.—At a foundry here Henry Kitlaus and John Kilgore, two employees of the shops, who have been on a four months' tour of Europe, each day after lunch, deliver ten minutes talks on what they saw on their trip. The talks consist of descriptions of the places of interest they visited on their trip, which took in Canada, England, France and the Paris exposition, Italy, Bavaria and Germany. They will also give a description of the "Passion play" of Oberammergau.

Paying Miners' Wages.

Hazleton, Pa., Oct. 16.—Quiet prevails throughout the Hazleton coal region. The Lehigh Valley Coal company and Cox Brothers & Co., paid their men for work done in September. The employees of the other companies will receive their wages next week. The majority of the companies will by that time have paid out all wages due the striking miners in the Hazleton district.

Conservatives Returned to Power.

London, Oct. 16.—The new house of commons is practically elected and the Conservatives returned to power with a majority that portends that they will remain in office another six years. Justification of the South African war, for that was the only serious issue in the campaign, has been accomplished in less than two weeks and the election machinery so suddenly put in action is already relapsing into the quiescence of ordinary times.

Floods in New Brunswick.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 13.—The province of New Brunswick has received a fearful lashing from a rain storm which has lasted one hundred and eight hours and which in amount equals ten inches. Not a train is moving on the Canadian Pacific railway between St. John and Van Ceboron, the branch lines of the road to St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Fredericton and Woodstock. The tie-up is due to washouts. Conditions are the worst which have existed in the Union Pacific railroad's history.

The 10 Per Cent or No Settlement.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 16.—A canvass of the operators of the Wyoming valley shows that there is considerable opposition to granting the miners any more concessions than those outlined in the original offer, namely 10 per cent increase without any conditions. The individual operators especially are opposed to tying themselves up to any agreement. One operator said the only way the strike can be settled is for the strikers to accept the 10 per cent without any provisions.

Claims Being Presented.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The state department already has received several claims by American missionaries and business men for indemnity on account of loss of property in China as a result of the Boxer uprising. The department in each case has notified the claimants that, as yet, it has not taken up for consideration the method of collecting such indemnities and has supplied them with the regulation circular containing information as to the means of filing claims.

SALISBURY IS SCOLDING

Because of Unreasonable Publicity Given by Powers.

London, Oct. 16.—No words can express too strongly the irritation of the British foreign office over the latest developments in the Chinese negotiations, and its hopelessness of any working arrangement being arrived at in the near future, if anything, its irritation, the chief cause of which, to quote an official, is the "extraordinary and unreasonable publicity" given diplomatic communications, even before they are officially communicated to the other powers.

America, according to the view taken by this official, whose opinion may fairly be presumed to echo Lord Salisbury's, is among the offenders in this respect. "How," continued the informant of the Associated Press, "can we be expected to arrive at conclusions when Chinese are given the opportunity of knowing every step in the negotiations, which in themselves are as intricate as the world has seen."

Want Kansas Farm Literature.

Topeka, Oct. 16.—Kansas agricultural methods and literature seem all the time to interest the Australians greatly. It will be remembered that the government of Queensland imported and kept Prof. E. M. Shelton, of the Kansas State Agricultural college at a large salary as agricultural adviser for about nine years, and finally gave him funds and authority for establishing a Yankee agricultural college, which is now in successful operation at Gatton, in that colony. They ask for everything coming from F. D. Coburn's pen.

Will Help Each Other.

Washington, Oct. 16.—The postoffice department is in full sympathy with the appeal of the postmaster of Galveston in behalf of the employees of that office, who have suffered through the terrible calamity which has overtaken them, and hopes that response, by those who have not already contributed through some other channel, will be generous and prompt. I am gratified to learn that the action taken in this direction by the National Association of Letter Carriers is meeting with hearty response.

Chinese Silver Held as a Trust Fund.

Washington, Oct. 15.—It is understood that the final disposition of the silver, some \$375,000 in amount, taken by the American marines at the capture of Tien Tsin, may be determined by congress. In the meantime the silver is being treated as a trust fund, of which the government is the custodian until a determination is reached as to its rightful disposition.

Plague in Glasgow Checked.

Glasgow, Oct. 13.—The plague suspects have been dismissed, but twenty plague cases remain in the hospital. An official bulletin says: "The outbreak has been completely checked. Twenty-one days have elapsed since the last case. The reception houses will be closed today."

Denver Strike Settled.

Denver, Colo., Oct. 12.—The strike of the woodworkers, which threatened to tie up all the mills in the city, has been settled and the closed mills resumed work. The trouble was over the employment of non-union men at some of the mills. The demands of the union were granted and all workmen will hereafter be union men.

Favor Certain Changes.